# REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

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| Date of entry in Register: | 21 February 1997 |
| Name of applicant/court: | Brendon Burns |
| Applicant to the Labelling Body: | Not Applicable |
| Title of Publication: | Child's Play 2 |
| Other Known Titles: | Not Stated |
| Director: | John Lafia |
| Producer: | David Kirschener |
| Publisher: | Not Applicable |
| Author: | Not Applicable |
| Format: | Video Recording VHS/PAL |
| Country of Origin: | USA |
| Language: | English |

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**Components of film originally examined:**

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| Feature: | Child's Play 2 | Running time: | 79.43 |
| Trailers: | Copyright Warning Notice | Running time: | 0.18 |
| | CIC Video Notice | | 0.18 |
| | Universal 75th Anniversary Notice | | 0.36 |
| | | Total Running time: | 80.55 |

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

Display conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Contains violence and offensive language.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on 18 February 1997

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**SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:**

The video recording *Child's Play 2* contains depictions of the infliction of serious physical harm in the context of horror, some of which have a significant impact on the viewer. It also contains a limited amount of offensive language.

There has been considerable public debate on the alleged links between *Child's Play* publications and the murders of James Bulger and Suzanne Capper in Britain and the murders committed by Martyn Bryant in Tasmania. The Classification Office investigated the commentaries made with respect to these allegations.

A police report read in the British House of Lords, on 14 April 1994, concluded there was no evidence to support the theory that either of the James Bulger or Suzanne Capper murders had been influenced by any particular video, or videos in general. Also, no evidence was presented about the role of videos in either of the prosecutions. The extent of the link between the murders committed by Martyn Bryant and *Child's Play 2* is that it was, reportedly, his favourite film around the time he committed the murders.

A Home Affairs Committee in Britain, in a report entitled 'Video Violence and Young Offenders', concluded that "there is some evidence to support the commonsense view that videos do have some corrupting influence on the young, which may lead some vulnerable children into crime."

The Classification Office has considered the above information when considering the likely injury to the public good of *Child's Play 2*. The Classification Office gives credence to the commonsense view, recognising that the media debates in particular, and the governmental investigations, have arisen out of public concern and belief that violence depicted in the entertainment media does have some relationship to actual violent behaviours. Given this, the likely injury to the public good, with regard to *Child's Play 2*, lies with children and young persons; due mainly to the depictions of the infliction of serious physical harm.

Accordingly, *Child's Play 2* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

OFLC Ref: 9601054